

SPECIFICATION

(1) On page 41 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning “Figure 34 is a front view” with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 34 is a front view ~~of which provides an overall illustration of the cap detent 510.~~ As shown in FIG. 34, the cap detent 510 is unitarily formed of the soft resin TPEE (~~Pelpuren~~), and (~~Pelpuren~~). The cap detent 510 comprises a cap retaining ring 511 for holding the fuel cap 545 (see FIG. 33), a cord-shaped flexible tether 515 extending from the cap retainer ring 511, a vehicle attachment component 533 for attaching the support end 518 of the tether 515 to the lid panel 540 (see FIG. 33), and detachable components 535. The detachable component 535 comprises a detent 513 formed with the cap retainer ring 511, and an engaged component 534 formed near the vehicle attachment component 533. The fuel cap 545 engages with the cap detent 510.

(2) On page 42 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning “As shown in Fig. 34” with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 34, the tether 515 extends from the connecting end 516 of the cap retainer ring 511 at an angle where the line of extension forms the hypotenuse 515a of the cap retainer ring 511. The line connecting the connecting end 516 and the center O of the cap retainer ring 511 is virtually at right angles to the line connecting the detent 513 (of the cap retainer ring 511) and the center O of the cap retainer ring 511.

(3) On page 44 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning “As shown in Fig. 34” with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 34, the detachable component 535 comprises a detent 513 (of the cap retainer ring 511) and an engaged component 534. The detent 513 (of the cap retainer ring 511)

comprises a component 513a in the form of a square with one side missing, that protrudes radially outward from the outer peripheral surface of the cap retainer ring 511, and an L-shaped component 513b (FIG. 35) that extends from midway in the above component 513a in the axial direction of the cap retainer ring 511, with the tip bent radially inward. As shown in FIG. 37, the engaged component 534 is a component in the form of a square with one side missing at the other surface 518b of the support end 518 of the tether 515 (see FIG. 37), extends in the same direction as the direction in which the support end 518 extends, and protrudes in the thicknesswise direction of the support end 518.

(4) On page 45 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning "When the cap retainer ring 511" with the following amended paragraph:

When the cap retainer ring 511 is brought into the proximity of the support end 518 of the tether 515, the L-shaped component 513b of the detent 513 (of the cap retainer ring 511) engages with the engaged component 534, as shown in FIGS. 41, 42, and 43. Since the L-shaped component 513b protrudes radially and axially from the cap retainer ring 511, from in front it readily engages with the engaged component 534. At this time, the head 546 of the fuel cap 545 is held by the cap retainer ring 511, as indicated by the two-dot line in FIG. 41, and the leg 547 extends forward. Because the head 546 of the fuel cap 545, which is shorter (thinner) than the leg 547, is located on the lid panel 540 side, there is no danger of the head 546 and lid panel 540 interfering with each other. Since, furthermore, the center of weight lies in the leg 547 of the fuel cap 545, the tip of the leg 547 descends vertically to a more stable state than the head 546, and is thus prevented from being removed from the cap retainer ring 511. The fuel cap 545 is separated from the body, thus preventing the body from becoming stained by gasoline clinging to the fuel cap 545.

(5) On page 46 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning “At the conclusion of fueling,” with the following amended paragraph:

At the conclusion of fueling, ~~The~~ the L-shaped component 513b of the detent 513 (of the cap retainer ring 511) is removed from the engaged component 534, the fuel cap 545 is moved toward the inlet 548 and attached to the inlet 548, and the lid panel 540 is closed.

(6) On page 46 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning “1) The fuel cap 545 may” with the following amended paragraph:

1) The fuel cap 545 may be stopped by the cap detent 510 because the L-shaped component 513b of the detachable component 535 is provided on the cap retainer ring 511, and because the engaged component 534 is provided on the support end 518 of the tether 515. This makes it unnecessary to provide the lid panel 540 with a detent for stopping the fuel cap 545. The detent 513 (of the cap retainer ring 511) of the detachable component 535 is also L-shaped, and the engaged component 534 is in the form of a square with one side missing. The detent ~~component~~ 513 (of the cap retainer ring 511) is thus readily attached to and detached from the engaged component 534.